In addition to the above as a long term strategy it has been decided that all coal especially from the Open Cast Mines will be washed before supply to consumers located away from pithead. Washeries for this purpose are being developed by Coal India Limited at subsidiary companies on Build Operate and Maintain basis.

Allocation of coal to Shri Singaji Thermal Power Project

†2624. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central approval is to be granted for allocation 6 MTPA coal to Shri Singaji Thermal Power Project of Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof any by when the approval is likely to be granted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) and (b) Malwa Thermal Power Plant (re-named as Shri Singaji Thermal Power Project) was authorized Letter of Assurance (LoA) by the Standing Linkage Committee (Long-term) in its meeting held on 11.5.2006 for its proposed 1000 Mega Watt Thermal Power Project. This Letter of Assurance was issued on 18th September 2006. In terms of the decision of the Standing Linkage Committee (Long-term) held on 12.11.2008, they did not submit the Commitment Guarantee (CG) to Coal India Limited/ South Eastern Coalfields Limited and initially sought exemption from submission of Commitment Guarantee. This request was examined and it was informed to them on 17.6.2009 that there is no provision for exemption from submission of Commitment Guarantee. Subsequently, they sought extension of time for submission of Commitment Guarantee and meanwhile on 7th August, 2009, they have submitted a revised application for setting up 2 X 600 MW project, which will be placed before the Standing Linkage Committee (Long Term) for consideration, subject to recommendations of Ministry of Power.

Fire at WCL

2625. SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE PATIL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some mines of Western Coalfields Ltd. (WCL) specifically at Nagpur area, have caught fire for decades and shortage of coal have been reported from this area;

(b) if so, the number of such sites and since when alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the steps taken to extinguish these fires and prevent recurrence of such incidents; and

(d) the details of the investigation for shortage of coal in Nagpur area of WCL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) and (b) Spontaneous heating is a natural phenomenon in coal mining. Details of incidents of fire

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

which occurred due to spontaneous heating of coal in the mines of Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) from the year 2006 to 2009 (up to November, 2009) are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) Following steps have been taken to prevent recurrence of fire in underground mines:-

(i) The size of the districts are planned on the basis of incubation period of coal.

(ii) Sectionalisation of districts are done in the mines.

(iii) The ventilation of the working districts are properly maintained and regularly monitored.

(iv) Fallen coal are regularly cleaned.

(d) There have been no reported shortage of coal due to above such incidences in Nagpur Area of WCL.

Statement

Details of incidences of fire in WCL during the period from 2006 to 2009

Year 2006

Period		Colliery/Area
From	To	
24.02.2006	25.02.2006	Nandan-2, Kanhan Area
11.03.2006	13.03.2006	Patansaongi Mine, Nagpur Area
25.05.2006	27.05.2006	Thesgora Mine, Pench Area
28.07.2006	28.07.2006	NMC-3 Najri Area
28.10.2006	30.10.2006	NMC-3 Najri Area
09.12.2006	09.12.2006	Thesgora Mine, Pench Area

Year 2007

Period		Colliery/Area
From	To	
08.05.2007	10.05.2007	Thesgora Mine, Pench Area
09.09.2007	13.09.2007	Thesgora Mine, Pench Area
02.10.2007	04.10.2007	Thesgora Mine, Pench Area
17.10.2007	17.10.2007	Vishnupur-I, Pench Area
17.11.2007	19.11.2007	DRC Mine, Chandrapur Area
20.11.2007	20.11.2007	NMC-3. Majri Area

Year 2008

Period		Colliery/Area
From	To	
24.04.2008	27.04.2008	BC 3&4 Pit, Ballarpur Area
29.06.2008	30.06.2008	HLC-1, Chandrapur Area
10.12.2008	13.12.2008	Thesgora Mine, Pench Area

Year 2009

Period		Colliery/Area
From	To	
20.03.2009	01.04.2009	Sasti UG, Ballarpur Area
22.05.2009	23.05.2009	Silewara UG, Napur Area
09.08.2009	11.08.20099	Mohan Colliery, Kanhan Area
26.11.2009	27.11.2009	Pench East Incline, Rawanwara Khas Colliery, Pench Area

Activities of coal blocks

2626. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether out of 190 coal blocks allocated so far, only over a dozen have reached the envisaged production levels, with the rest still waiting for the mandatory environmental clearance;

(b) whether with a huge reserve unexploited under the idle allocated blocks, Government is still confident of achieving the production target of 104 million tonnes by 2011-12;

(c) whether the Coal India Ltd. needs 120 additional blocks to achieve its production targets set for 2020;

(d) if so, whether around 40 idle blocks, presently with PSUs and private companies would be re-allocated to new applicants; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) So far 208 coal blocks have been allocated upto November, 2009 and majority of the coal blocks were allotted after 2005. 25 coal blocks have commenced production and 30.02 million tonnes of coal was produced during 2008-09.

(b) As per the Mid-Term Appraisal carried out by the Planning Commission recently, coal production from the aforesaid coal blocks is estimated to be about 80.89 million tonnes during the terminal year of the XI Plan i.e. 2011-12.